(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to curb it and the action being taken against the guilty; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) No, Sir. No such scam has been brought to the notice of the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Miscellaneous development charges at airports

*252. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether passengers are being put to hardships by way of levying Airport Development Fees and User Development Fees; and

(b) whether Government is considering to withdraw such charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. User Development Fee (UDF) at Bangalore International Airport, Devanahalli and Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad has been levied purely on *ad-hoc* basis as per the provisions of Concession Agreement entered by Government of India with Joint Venture Companies to meet the revenue gap.

Keeping in view the paramount importance of completion of the modernisation of airports at Delhi and Mumbai in a time bound manner, Development Fee (DF) has been levied as per the provisions of Article 22A of Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 purely on *ad-hoc* basis for a period of 36 months and 48 months respectively to bridge the funding gap.

(b) No, Sir.

Pendency in the disposal of income tax returns

*253. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the disposal of income tax returns, heavy pendency is reported;

(b) whether there is a system of periodical special drives for speedy disposal of these cases; and

(c) whether there will be a different approach to quicken the process?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. There was a pendency of 2,35,74,618 income-tax returns for processing u/s 143(1) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, as on 1.4.2009.

(b) There is no practice of periodical special drives for speedy disposal of returns. The processing of income tax returns u/s 143(1) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, is a continuous ongoing activity, which is regularly monitored at all levels through monthly reports.

(c) The department has decided to move towards centralized mass processing of returns. For this purpose the project of consolidation of Regional databases into single national database has been completed in December, 2008. A pilot project for mass processing of salary returns has been completed at Mumbai. Based on these a Centralized Processing Centre is being set up at Bangalore. This will be completed in current financial year and will speed up processing of returns.

Pilots of private airlines caught drunk

*254. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several pilots of private airlines have been caught drunk during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details of such pilots grounded, airline-wise, so far;

(c) whether some pilots recently took off without the pre-flight checks at the airports; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken against these pilots and airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) 8 pilots of Kingfisher Airlines, 6 each of Indigo and Spice Jet and 3 each of Jetlite, Paramount and Jet Airways were detected alco-positive during pre-flight medical examination. Any pilot found to be alco-positive is immediately grounded for a period of upto six weeks.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Amendment in NREGS

*255. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to increase wages under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) to Rs. 100 a day;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the study on evaluating the performance of NREGS recommended that the wage offered to workers be cut by 1/5th for more penetration of scheme;

(d) whether the study has recommended for increasing the man-days from existing 100 days to 120 days;

(e) if so, how Government is planning to reconcile two opposing views on wages;